

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

2490 Main Road - Tiverton, RI 02878 - Phone (401) 830-5763

ERICD Board Meeting

June 14, 2011

7:00 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present were: Directors, Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Suzanne Hourihan, Ron Mucci and Richard Hart; Associate Director Steve Horowicz; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee; Melissa Hayden, Nina Bhettacharyya, NRCS; Jessica Blackledge, ERICD Project Manager; Christopher Hart, Anchor Organics.

I. Minutes: Declared accepted as printed.

II. Reports:

A. Treasurer's: Financial reports were declared accepted as presented.

B. Project Manager: Written report was distributed.

- Request for grant from RI Ag Council was not funded.**
- The State Conservation Committee voted to allocate up to \$500 for the development of an ERICD website.**

- **Jessie attended NRICD's open house on 5/25, and presented at NRCS workshop on High Tunnels and Forestry CAP's.**
- **Tax assessors in District will receive updated FFOS Citizens Guides.**
- **Jessie will be on vacation 7/14-25.**

C. Chair: Walter attended the NRCS workshop. No activity on contract with Newport Water at Sakonnet Winery.

D. Directors:

- **Emerson Wildes has attended the RI Ag Council Meeting, The State Conservation Committee Meeting, and the High Tunnel Workshop at Little Compton Grange.**
- **Steve Horowicz will report on equipment later in meeting.**
- **Dick Went reported that application for an oyster farm on Nanequatuck Pond was withdrawn before hearing. Water quality of pond will be discussed under New Business.**

E. Office Use: Paul Brulee (FSA) would like to use office to compile acreage reports on 6/22, 6/29 & 7/6. No Board objection, therefore so declared.

F. NRCS: written report distributed.

- **Round 2 funding should be completed within a week. A 3rd Round of funding is not likely.**
- **Energy Initiative fund will be included in 2012 Budget.**
- **Nina Bhattacharyya reported on NRCS contracts at Norman Bird**

Sanctuary.

G. SCC:

- **RIACD will develop an online Directors training program on its website which will fulfill the SCC's obligation to provide training to new Directors within 6 months of appointment/election. As discussed previously, up to \$500 was allocated for development of an ERICD website.**
- **Reprinting of CD's PR material.**
- **A meeting with Phou Vongkhamdy is scheduled for 6/16 at 10:30.**
- **Emerson asked that Board training be added to ERICD's monthly agenda.**

H. RIACD:

- **Association voted to change meeting schedule to meet twice per year.**
- **The Northeast NACD Conference will be held in Plymouth, MA on August 5-9.**

III. Old Business:

A. DIRT/FRESH: Nothing to report.

B. Bathroom Project: To be removed from agenda.

C. Geese Abatement: Since last meeting, two field outings held. Jessie is updating PowerPoint presentation for upcoming workshops and working on PR for same.

D. Aquaculture: Previously discussed.

IV. New Business

A. Bills: Jessie's expenses and National Grid bill were authorized for payment. Motion made: Emerson/Ron; unanimous.

B. Board Elections: Nomination papers should be submitted by 7/1.

C. 2011-12 ERICD Budget: Proposed budget based on level funding from State distributed. The Budget was tabled until deficit can be reduced: Motion made by Emerson, seconded by Ron; unanimous.

D. Office Equipment: Steve reported that computer and printer could be replaced for \$700-\$800. A motion was made to authorize spending up to \$400 for a laser printer: Emerson/Suzanne; upon discussion, motion was amended to ask Steve to investigate and recommend a specific model. Amendment was accepted.

E. Equipment: Bank Grant tabled until next meeting.

F. Annual Dinner: Emerson suggested giving geese volunteers a

complimentary ticket to dinner.

G. SCC Budget: Not discussed.

H. FFOS: Not discussed.

V. Other

- **A motion was made to authorize Jessie to work equal number of hours that she will miss while on vacation before she leaves: Emerson/Suzanne; unanimous.**
- **Walter will attend meeting with Phou.**
- **A motion was made to authorize Jessie to attend State Technical Team meetings on 6/23 & 6/30: Suzanne/Ron; motion passed.**
- **Dick reported earlier that there are multiple sources of pollution around Stone Bridge and expressed his concern. Walter suggested that he and Jessie develop a report suggesting possible action by ERICD to address situation.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15.